



Brian J. Neilson  
Dept. of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Aquatic Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

27 April 2021

Re: Support for Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District Coral Restoration Project

Aloha Mr. Neilson,

Founded in 1990, Friends of Hanauma Bay is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments, emphasizing the stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay in Oahu, Hawai'i.

We strongly support the State of Hawaii's proposal for coral restoration within the Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD). This project will use existing resources at the Division of Aquatic Resources' Hawaii Coral Restoration Nursery (HCRN) to produce large living coral modules for outplanting in a concentrated area within the Waikiki MLCD which will measurably enhance shallow-water marine tourism adjoining Waikiki, the tourism center of Oahu. By providing a free, maintained, reef snorkeling experience adjoining Waikiki, this project will benefit historically over-stressed fragile marine habitats in other parts of the island like Hanauma Bay.

The only land-based facility in the world to successfully accelerate the growth rate of slow-growing Hawaiian corals, the work of the HCRN is crucial to preserving and restoring Hawaii's degraded nearshore reefs and endemic Hawaiian corals.

We therefore strongly encourage the reviewers to support funding this project. Expansion of the HCRN's coral restoration capabilities will improve the biodiversity of Hawaii's reef habitats, enhance recreation opportunities for visitors and local communities, and support a mindful revival of Hawaii's tourism industry following the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With aloha,

Lisa Bishop  
President  
Friends of Hanauma Bay  
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